

At 2:31 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 50. An act to reauthorize the African Elephant Conservation Act and the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994.

H.R. 404. An act to require the establishment of customer service standards for Federal agencies.

H.R. 465. An act to reauthorize the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997.

H.R. 495. An act to update the management of Oregon water resources, and for other purposes.

H.R. 716. An act to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Santa Rosa Urban Water Reuse Plan.

H.R. 761. An act to authorize the Secretary of Interior to convey to The Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Interpretive Trail and Visitor Center Foundation, Inc. certain Federal land associated with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail in Nebraska, to be used as an historical interpretive site along the trail.

H.R. 1239. An act to amend the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998 to authorize additional funding to carry out the Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1285. An act to provide for the conveyance of a parcel of National Forest System land in Kittitas County, Washington, to facilitate the construction of a new fire and rescue station, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1388. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Star-Spangled Banner Trail in the States of Maryland and Virginia and the District of Columbia as a National Historic Trail.

H.R. 1503. An act to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Avra/Black Wash Reclamation and Riparian Restoration Project.

H.R. 1526. An act to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2400. An act to direct the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish an integrated Federal ocean and coastal mapping plan for the Great Lakes and coastal state waters, the territorial sea, the exclusive economic zone, and the Continental Shelf of the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2630. An act to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit certain political committees from compensating the spouse of the candidate for services provided to or on behalf of the committee, to require such committees to report on payments made to the spouse and the immediate family members of the candidate, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2798. An act to reauthorize the programs of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3095. An act to amend the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 to modify a deadline relating to a certain election by Indian tribes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 139. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States should address the ongoing problem of untouchability in India.

H. Con. Res. 175. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that courts with fiduciary responsibility for a child of a deceased member of the Armed Forces who receives a death gratuity payment under section 1477 of title 10, United States Code, should take into consideration the expression of clear intent of the member regarding the distribution of funds on behalf of the child.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 50. An act to reauthorize the African Elephant Conservation Act and the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 404. An act to require the establishment of customer service standards for Federal agencies; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 465. An act to reauthorize the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 495. An act to update the management of Oregon water resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 716. An act to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Santa Rosa Urban Water Reuse Plan; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 761. An act to authorize the Secretary of Interior to convey to The Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Interpretive Trail and Visitor Center Foundation, Inc. certain Federal land associated with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail in Nebraska, to be used as an historical interpretive site along the trail; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1239. An act to amend the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998 to authorize additional funding to carry out the Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1285. An act to provide for the conveyance of a parcel of National Forest System land in Kittitas County, Washington, to facilitate the construction of a new fire and rescue station, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1503. An act to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Avra Black Wash Reclamation and Riparian Restoration Project; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1526. An act to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2400. An act to direct the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish an integrated Federal ocean and coastal mapping plan for the Great Lakes and coastal state waters, the territorial sea, the exclusive economic zone, and the Continental Shelf of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 2630. An act to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit

certain political committees from compensating the spouse of the candidate for services provided to or on behalf of the committee, to require such committees to report on payments made to the spouse and the immediate family members of the candidate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

H.R. 2798. An act to reauthorize the programs of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 139. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States should address the ongoing problem of untouchability in India; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1388. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Star-Spangled Banner Trail in the States of Maryland and Virginia and the District of Columbia as a National Historic Trail.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, July 24, 2007, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 966. An act to enable the Department of State to respond to a critical shortage of passport processing personnel, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2644. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cattle for Export; Removal of Certain Testing Requirements" (Docket No. APHIS-2006-0147) received on July 23, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2645. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oriental Fruit Fly; Removal of Quarantined Areas" (Docket No. APHIS-2006-0151) received on July 23, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2646. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Brucellosis in Cattle; State and Area Classifications; Idaho" (Docket No. APHIS-2007-0097) received on July 23, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2647. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the development of an alternative process that would allow Service

members to request their military identification cards not contain their Social Security Number; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2648. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the conduct of the Defense Acquisition Challenge Program for fiscal year 2006; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2649. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Antiboycott Penalty Guidelines" (RIN0694-AD63) received on July 23, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2650. A communication from the Deputy Secretary, Division of Investment Management, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Interactive Data Voluntary Reporting Program on the EDGAR System To Include Mutual Fund Risk/Return Summary Information" (RIN3235-AJ59) received on July 23, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2651. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Addition of Entities to the Entity List" (RIN0694-AE06) received on July 23, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2652. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" (72 FR 32008) received on July 20, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2653. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its contract with the Trinity Technology Group for security screening services at the Sonoma County Airport in Santa Rosa, California; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2654. A communication from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Board's compliance with the Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2655. A communication from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "NASA Grant and Cooperative Agreement Handbook—Individual Procurement Action" (RIN2700-AD34) received on July 23, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2656. A communication from the Director, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2006 Status of U.S. Fisheries"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2657. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Coast Guard Sector, Marine Inspection Zone, and Captain of the Port Zone Structure; Technical Amendment" ((RIN1625-AB07) (USCG2006-25556)) received on July 19,

2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2658. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones (including 2 regulations beginning with CGD05-07-010)" (RIN1625-AA00) received on July 19, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2659. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones (including 10 regulations beginning with CGD01-07-03)" (RIN1625-AB00) received on July 19, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2660. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones (including 9 regulations beginning with CGD01-07-080)" (RIN1625-AB00) received on July 19, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2661. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, proposed legislation relative to amending certain maritime programs of the Department; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2662. A communication from the White House Liaison, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Assistant Secretary, received on July 20, 2007; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2663. A communication from the Principal Deputy General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Market-Based Rates for Wholesale Sales of Electric Energy, Capacity and Ancillary Services by Public Utilities" (RIN1902-AC51) received on July 20, 2007; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2664. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Louisiana; Clean Air Interstate Rule Sulfur Dioxide Trading Program" (FRL No. 8442-8) received on July 19, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2665. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation; North Dakota; Revisions to New Source Review Rules" (FRL No. 8441-9) received on July 19, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2666. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Diflubenzuron; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL No. 8136-7) received on July 19, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2667. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Glufosinate-Ammonium; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL No. 8137-4) received on July 19, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2668. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Partial Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule Revising the California State Implementation Plan, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 8444-3) received on July 19, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2669. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Penoxsulam Benzenesulfonamide; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL No. 8137-7) received on July 19, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2670. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revised Compliance Dates Under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Regulations and Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations" (FRL No. 8444-8) received on July 19, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2671. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Evaluation of the Medicare Replacement Drug Demonstration"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2672. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Center for Medicare Management, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Revised Payment System Policies for Services Furnished in Ambulatory Surgical Centers Beginning in Calendar Year 2008" (RIN0938-AO73) received on July 23, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2673. A communication from the Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Correction: Voluntary Reliquidation of Deemed Liquidated Entries" (CBP Dec. 07-62) received on July 20, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2674. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Tacking Rule of Life/Non-Life Consolidated Return Regulations" ((RIN1545-BE85) (TD 9342)) received on July 20, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2675. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's 2006 Performance Report relative to the Prescription Drug User Fee Act; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2676. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Applicable Federal Rates—August 2007" (Rev. Rul. 2007-50) received on July 19, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2677. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Treatment of Excess Loss Accounts" ((RIN1545-BE87) (TD 9341)) received on July 19, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2678. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, (18) reports relative to vacancy announcements within the Department, received on July 20, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2679. A communication from the Acting White House Liaison, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the confirmation of a nomination for the position of Assistant Secretary, received on July 23, 2007; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2680. A communication from the Human Resources Specialist, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and the designation of an acting officer for the position of Assistant Secretary for Disability Employment Policy, received on July 20, 2007; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2681. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research—Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers on Vocational Rehabilitation—Notice of Final Priority" (72 FR 35443) received on July 23, 2007; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2682. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Performance Report of the Food and Drug Administration's Office of Combination Products for fiscal year 2006; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2683. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, (2) reports relative to vacancy announcements within the Department, received on July 23, 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2684. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the category rating system; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2685. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination and a change in previously submitted report information for the position of Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence, received on July 20, 2007; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC-2686. A communication from the Editor, Office of General Counsel, Federal Bureau of Prisons, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Searches of Housing Units, Inmates, and Inmate Work Areas: Electronic Devices" (RIN1120-AA90) received on July 23, 2007; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2687. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting a legislative proposal entitled, "Identity Theft Enforcement and Restitution Act of 2007"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2688. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a supplemental update of the Budget that was previously transmitted earlier in the year; referred jointly to the Committees on Appropriations and Budget.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-169. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Pennsylvania opposing the provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 that preempt the authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to determine land use policies; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 129

Whereas, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPact) was passed by the Congress on July 29, 2005, and signed into law on August 8, 2005; and

Whereas, the EPact was promoted as a comprehensive approach to growing energy needs and designed to guarantee development of domestic fuel production and energy supply, thereby ending United States dependence on foreign oil; and

Whereas, provisions of the omnibus legislation touch on nearly every segment of energy production and use, including nuclear power, electricity, natural gas, fossil fuels, renewable energy and competitive generation; and

Whereas, a provision of Title XII of the EPact, Electricity, however, preempts what have long been fundamental powers of state and local governments; and

Whereas, section 1221, for example, transfers the authority to approve the siting of certain transmission lines from state governments and their political subdivisions to agencies of the Federal Government; and

Whereas, section 1221(a) of EPact directs the United States Secretary of Energy to, in consultation with states, conduct periodic nationwide studies of electric transmission congestion; and

Whereas, the Secretary of Energy released its initial National Electric Transmission Congestion study in August 2006; and

Whereas, based upon the findings of any congestion study, the Secretary of Energy may designate "any geographical area experiencing electric energy transmission capacity constraints or congestion that adversely affects customers" as "national interest electric transmission corridor" or national corridor; and

Whereas, section 1221(b) further conveys to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) the authority to issue permits for construction or modification of electric transmission facilities situated or proposed to be situated in any Department of Energy designated national interest electric transmission corridor; and

Whereas, the FERC would be able to override the authority of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to issue a certificate of public convenience to approve and locate a transmission line in a Department of Energy designated national interest electric transmission corridor if:

(1) the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission had no authority to approve a specified transmission line proposal or would fail to consider interstate benefits of the proposed transmission line;

(2) the applicant would not qualify for a certificate of public convenience issued by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission because it does not serve end-use customers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania;

(3) the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission would fail to act on an application for approval to locate and construct the new transmission line within one year of the filing of an application or one year after designation as a national interest electric transmission corridor, whichever is later; or

(4) the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission would condition its approval in such a manner that the proposed construction or modification would not significantly reduce transmission congestion or would not be economically feasible; and

Whereas, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and its predecessor, the Public Service Commission, have had jurisdictional and regulatory authority over public utilities and public utility service, including the review and approval of applications for the location and construction of transmission lines in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania since 1913, or for 94 years; and

Whereas, the designation of national interest electric transmission corridors in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, coupled with FERC "backstop" authority to issue permits to site a transmission line and thereby override the recommendations of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, would give electric utilities access to Federal eminent domain authority; and

Whereas, if FERC would institute its "backstop" authority, the holder of a FERC-issued permit would be empowered to exercise the right of eminent domain to condemn and acquire private property to locate and construct the transmission line; and

Whereas, on March 6, 2006, Allegheny Power and the PJM Interconnection, the Regional Transmission Organization that coordinates the movement of wholesale electricity in all or parts of 13 states and the District of Columbia, including the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, filed for early designation as a national interest electric transmission corridor a 240-mile, 500 kV transmission line which would extend from southwestern Pennsylvania, traverse West Virginia and terminate in northern Virginia; and

Whereas, on October 10, 2006, the PJM Interconnection submitted another request to the Department of Energy for early designation of three additional national interest electric transmission corridors that will encompass nearly all of the Mid-Atlantic region; and

Whereas, the early request filed with the United States Department of Energy by Allegheny Power and the PJM Interconnection, if granted, will include significant acreage of land in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, on April 26, 2007, the United States Department of Energy released drafts of two national interest electric transmission corridor designations, including the Mid-Atlantic Area National Corridor; and

Whereas, the Mid-Atlantic area National Corridor designation includes counties in Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, Virginia and includes all of New Jersey, Delaware and the District of Columbia; and

Whereas, Fifty of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's 67 counties, or 75% of the land within the Commonwealth's geographic borders, are included in the Mid-Atlantic Area National Corridor designation; and

Whereas, in its release announcing the draft national interest electric transmission corridor designations, the Department of Energy revealed that it would convene three public meetings during a 60-day comment period; and

Whereas, in its April 26, 2007, announcement, the Department of Energy revealed that public meetings would be held in New York, Virginia and California during the 60-day comment period; and

Whereas, some local governments, citizens and preservation groups that would be directly impacted by the designation of national interest electric transmission corridors in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania